

INHERITED A FORTUNE

CHIEF HEIR OF "SILENT" SMITH
"JOLTED" BY NEWS.

George Grant Mason, Nephew of Deceased Millionaire, Tells of Himself—Engaged in Railroad Engineering Since He Left Yale.

Chicago.—Do you think you could be calm if you woke up and found yourself possessed of \$12,000,000? Do you think you'd get up just as in the morning and drill down work in the same old way when \$12,000,000 awaited you in the bank to cut up any tricks your checkbook might order?

That's what George Grant Mason, heir to the vast fortune of "Silent" Smith, is doing—being calm and holding on to the job which supported him before his eccentric uncle died suddenly while on a tour of Japan and made the South Dakota trainman a millionaire.

Mr. Mason, who was recently in Chicago attending a family reunion at Evanston and incidentally on business connected with the settlement of the Smith estate, frankly says that the news that he was to inherit the greater part of the Smith millions gave him a jolt for the time being—it was so unexpected. Then, having recovered from the blissful shock, he went back into the monotonous routine of railroad life which had been his before the sudden acquisition of wealth. In many ways does this tall, well-built, blue-eyed, athletic man differ from the kinsman who was famed for his fortune much more than for his

calm. In the first place Mr. Mason is only willing to talk about himself in a modest way, but he does it in an exceedingly entertaining manner.

"Tell you something about myself?" repeated with a smile. "Well, what can I say? I was an old Yale man; both my brother and I were together. We were prepared at Yale, near Lynne, Conn., and then a year we went to college, where my brother and I attended the Sheffield Scientific school.

I was always fond of athletics; in my senior year I was substitute both of the baseball and football teams, and I have not lost my love for either. When we left Yale we attended the Stevens institute for a year, and, of course, went in strongly for athletics. My brother having been captain of the baseball team.

In 1889 my brother and I entered the mechanical department of the University of Wisconsin at St. Paul, Minn., and I remained in Milwaukee for years. My next move was a most important one for me. I was sent to Green Bay, Wis., and it was there I met my wife. She was a Miss Marion, daughter of Mrs. Neville, and by the way, is very well known in the Federation of Women's Clubs. She is a very talented woman. I may say that my trip to Green Bay was the luckiest I ever made, not excepting this last visit to New York.

I remained two years in Green Bay, where I was roundhouse foreman, and I returned to Milwaukee as draughtsman in the drawing office. Then I was sent to Mason City, Minn., where I was trainmaster for five years. The final shift was to Aberdeen, S. D., where I remained two years and a half, which brings us to the present time. I can tell you that the job in Aberdeen was no more secure. The Pacific coast extension was right at the end of my division and we had a tremendous lot of work to do. The contrast between the life in the city and the life in the country was a continual grind, but some- times I loved the life.

I always planned my course so as to stand on my own feet, and I think that my egoism I may say I did not get successfully. I thought that one day get something for my sister, my brother and my wife. I got \$1,000 Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul bonds under the will of the late George Smith, but never in my dreams did I imagine anything like this.

So little did I anticipate it that when I came east I applied for only an indefinite leave of absence. I did not even close up my house, but I shall have to stop here a year or so. Mrs. Mason has returned to New York to wind up our affairs in Aberdeen.

George Grant Mason, latest recruit to the ranks of millionaires, gives one the impression that he is going to be a distinct acquisition to that order, though, as a well-known railroad man and a first-class trainman has been in the process.



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CARDINAL TO VISIT AMERICA.

Merry Del Val Plans Trip to Western States.

New York.—Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val, who has announced that in the near future he will visit the middle and western states, is pontifical secretary of state and is no stranger to America. Formerly he was papal delegate to Canada, and he also has



CARDINAL MERRY DEL VAL.
(Catholic Prelate Who Will Soon Visit the United States.)

visited New York. The cardinal was raised to his present eminence in 1903, after the election of Pope Pius X., by whom he was appointed pontifical secretary in succession to the renowned Cardinal Rampolla del Tindaro. He also was secretary of the sacred college that elected the present pontiff. Cardinal Merry del Val was born in London in 1865, his father having been then secretary of the Spanish embassy to the court of St. James. He is descended from an Irish family who emigrated to Spain at the end of the seventeenth century.

PRIMITIVE WRITING TABLE.

Old Sand Table and Aged Man Who as Child Was Taught to Write on It.

London.—It would be interesting to know how many people now living remember the days when their three R's were taught them by means of sand—ink, pencils and paper being too costly. An interesting reminder of those times is the old sand writing table to be seen at Dennington, in Suffolk.

It consists of a long, smooth board, with a rim all round. On this surface fine sand was sprinkled to a depth of about an eighth of an inch, and the writing was traced thereon with the forefinger. A plasterer's leveler was used for smoothing the sand for the next pupil.

The sexton shown in the picture seated at the table is just fourscore



Old Sand Writing Table.

years and ten, and he learned to write on this board. These tables were often kept in church, and writing lessons took place after morning service.

CHASED BY SPOOK TABLE.

An Amusing Adventure of Gabriel d'Annunzio.

An amazing adventure of the poet Gabriel d'Annunzio, who was chased by a spook table, is related by the Messagero of Rome, Italy. This newspaper declares that Sig. d'Annunzio often goes to the villa of the Marquis Clement Origo, near Florence, to attend spiritualistic seances. During his last visit, a small table, from the studio of the painter Coros, was used, and the spirit in response to an invitation to declare itself, answered in the conventional manner by rapping on this piece of furniture. The spirit introduced himself as that of a gentleman who was killed recently in a motoring accident and immediately proceeded to make the most damaging statement against d'Annunzio, who, with his friends, at first smiled, but later began to show obvious uneasiness. This troublesome spook was accordingly switched off, and a second invoked, but matters only became worse, for the table seemed to be imbued with the most violent animosity against the poet. It moved steadily in his direction, and finally leaped at him with such violence that he was thrown against the wall. The Marquis Origo, having calmed the table, asked the spirit for its opinion as to d'Annunzio's literary merit. "All smoke," came the answer, "smoke which will be speedily dissipated." The experimenters then decided to call the spirit of a lady who died not long ago, but the statements made by her were such that the Messagero refrains from publishing them, adding that the poet is about to issue a statement in reference to his remarkable adventure.

Too Much System.

Every large manufacturing concern now considers "system" as one of the commandments. But it can be overdone. Some ten years ago there was not enough of it; now it seems to be in danger of running mad.—Engineering Times.

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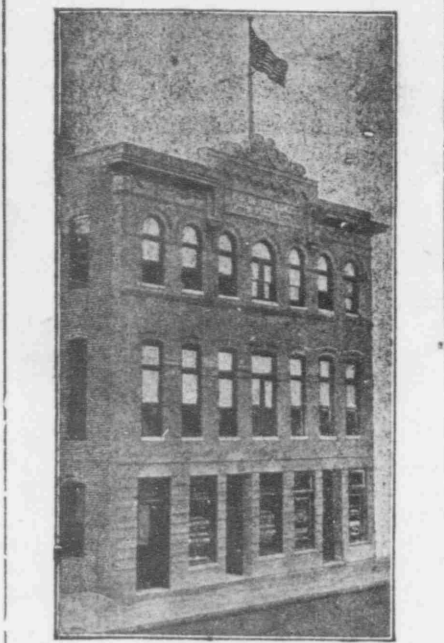
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PROTECTS KOREAN FORESTS.

Japan is Applying Latest Methods to Husband Timber.

Washington.—Luke E. Wright, United States ambassador to Japan, has forwarded to the state department details of the cooperative agreement between the Japanese and Korean governments outlining a plan for the use of forests in the Yalu and Tumen valleys. The plan is similar in many ways to the methods of the United States in developing the national forests of this country under the administration of the forest service.

The decision of the Japanese government to apply methods of forestry to the use of the forests of Korea is given especial attention because it is said that the matter of a large timber concession by Russia to a corporation was one of the ulterior causes of the declaration of war between the two countries. Before Korea came under the rule of Japan its timber resources were being rapidly depleted by wasteful lumbering.

Japan's plan for the management of the timber lands of Korea is to establish in the next five or six years pine model forests in the neighborhood of the cities of Seoul, Pingyang and Taiku. The capital for this enterprise is about \$600,000, one-half of which is to be furnished by the Korean government.

Nuns as Strikebreakers.

Cuneo, Italy.—When the composers of the Roman Catholic weekly newspaper here struck for higher wages the proprietor, at his wits' end, went to the prioress of the convent. She was a woman of resource and suggested that her nuns should go to the printing office and do the work. They did. In a few days they had become fairly expert and the paper appeared only one day late. The nuns made one characteristic stipulation, that the money they earned should go to the support of the strikers' families.

Wants to Stop Hat Tipping.

Vienna.—Count Johann Harrach, one of the leading Austrian noblemen, is organizing an association to suppress hat doffing as a salutation and substitute a military salute.

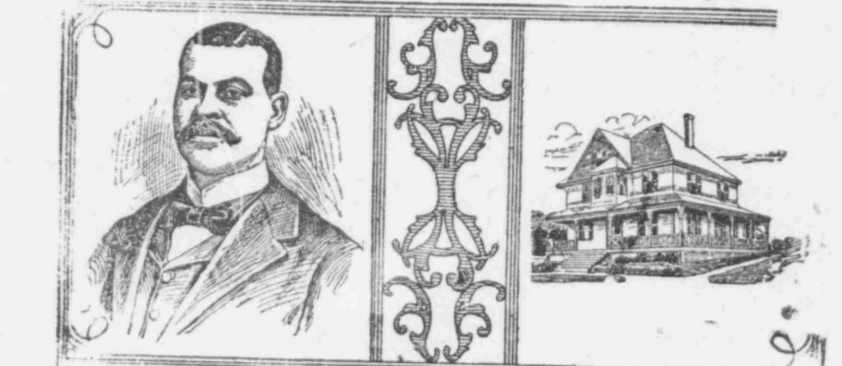
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